

# NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

## Notice of Intended Action

**Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”**

**Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.**

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 455A.5(6), 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.48, the Natural Resource Commission hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 91, “Waterfowl and Coot Hunting Seasons,” Iowa Administrative Code.

These rules give the regulations for hunting waterfowl and coot and include season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, and areas open to hunting. The amendments adjust the season dates to comply with federal regulations and to ensure the seasons open on weekends and add a special September teal season for up to 16 days for all species of teal.

These zones and season dates provide different opening and closing dates for the duck season in each zone. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering expanded teal hunting opportunities in response to continued high teal populations. The additional season will not adversely impact teal numbers and will allow Iowa hunters 16 more days of recreational hunting opportunity during the peak migration period for teal.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendments on or before May 20, 2014. Written comments may be directed to Wildlife Bureau Chief, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034; by e-mail at [wildlife@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:wildlife@dnr.iowa.gov); or by fax at (515)281-6794. Persons who wish to convey their comments orally may contact the Wildlife Bureau by telephone at (515)281-5034 or by visiting the fourth floor of the Wallace State Office Building during regular business hours.

There will be a public hearing on May 20, 2014, at 1 p.m. in the conference room on the fourth floor of the Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. At the public hearing, persons may present their views either orally or in writing. Participants will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the amendments.

Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department of Natural Resources and request specific accommodations.

After analysis and review of this rule making, there will be a positive impact on jobs due to the additional days of hunting opportunity offered to waterfowl hunters.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.48. The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend subrules 91.1(2) to 91.1(7) as follows:

**91.1(2) Season dates - north zone.** Special teal season: September 6 through September 21. For all ducks: ~~September 24~~ October 4 through ~~September 25~~ October 19 and ~~October 12~~ 25 through December ~~5~~ 7.

**91.1(3) Season dates - south zone.** Special teal season: September 6 through September 21. For all ducks: ~~September 24~~ October 4 through ~~September 25~~ October 8 and ~~October 19~~ 18 through December ~~12~~ 11.

**91.1(4) Season dates - Missouri River zone.** Special teal season: September 6 through September 21. For all ducks: ~~September 24~~ October 4 through ~~September 25~~ October 8 and ~~October 26~~ 25 through December ~~19~~ 18.

**91.1(5) Bag limit.** Special teal season: The daily bag limit is 6 teal of any species. For all ducks: The daily bag limit of ducks is 6, and may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which

may be females), 1 black duck, 3 wood ducks, 2 pintails, 1 mottled duck, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, and 3 scaup. The daily bag limit of mergansers is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers.

**91.1(6) Possession limit.** For the special teal season and for all ducks: Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

**91.1(7) Shooting hours.** For the special teal season: Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset each day. For all ducks: Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day.

ITEM 2. Amend subrules 91.3(2) to 91.3(4) as follows:

**91.3(2) Season dates - north zone.** Canada geese and brant: September ~~28~~ 27 through January ~~3,~~ 2, ~~2014~~ 2015. White-fronted geese: September ~~28~~ 27 through December ~~40~~ 9. Light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese): September ~~28~~ 27 through January ~~12,~~ 11, ~~2014~~ 2015.

**91.3(3) Season dates - south zone.** Canada geese and brant: October ~~5~~ 4 through January ~~10,~~ 9, ~~2014~~ 2015. White-fronted geese: October ~~5~~ 4 through December ~~17~~ 16. Light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese): October ~~5~~ 4 through January ~~17,~~ 16, ~~2014~~ 2015.

**91.3(4) Season dates - Missouri River zone.** Canada geese and brant: October ~~12~~ 11 through January ~~17,~~ 16, ~~2014~~ 2015. White-fronted geese: October ~~12~~ 11 through December ~~24~~ 23. Light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese): October ~~12~~ 11 through January ~~17,~~ 16, ~~2014~~ 2015.

ITEM 3. Amend subrules 91.3(8) to 91.3(11) as follows:

**91.3(8) Light goose conservation order season.** Only light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese) may be taken under a conservation order from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from January ~~18,~~ 17, ~~2014~~ 2015, through April 15, ~~2014~~ 2015.

a. to e. No change.

**91.3(9) Cedar Rapids/Iowa City goose hunting zone.**

a. Season dates. September ~~7~~ 6 through September ~~15~~ 14.

b. to d. No change.

**91.3(10) Des Moines goose hunting zone.**

a. Season dates. September ~~7~~ 6 through September ~~15~~ 14.

b. to d. No change.

**91.3(11) Cedar Falls/Waterloo goose hunting zone.**

a. Season dates. September ~~7~~ 6 through September ~~15~~ 14.

b. to d. No change.

ITEM 4. Amend rule 571—91.6(481A) as follows:

**571—91.6(481A) Youth waterfowl hunt.** A special youth waterfowl hunt will be held on ~~October 5 and 6~~ September 27 and 28 in the ~~north duck hunting zone, October 12 and 13 in the south duck hunting zone, and October 19 and 20 in the Missouri River duck hunting zone~~ north, south and Missouri River duck hunting zones. Youth hunters must be residents of Iowa as defined in Iowa Code section 483A.1A and less than 16 years old. Each youth hunter must be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older. The youth hunter does not need to have a hunting license or stamps. The adult must have a valid hunting license and habitat stamp if normally required to have them to hunt and a state waterfowl stamp. Only the youth hunter may shoot ducks and coots. The adult may hunt for any other game birds for which the season is open. The daily bag and possession limits are the same as for the regular waterfowl season, as defined in rule 571—91.1(481A). All other hunting regulations in effect for the regular waterfowl season apply to the youth hunt.